



**Illinois IPA DG Workshop
SEIA and Vote Solar Initial Comments
February 23, 2012**

Arlene Juracek, Director
Illinois Power Agency (IPA)
Bilandic Building, Suite N-506
160 N. LaSalle St
Chicago, IL

Dear Ms. Juracek,

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and the Vote Solar Initiative (Vote Solar) appreciate the opportunity to offer comment on the IPA Distributed Generation Workshop Process.¹ We commend the Illinois Legislature for recognizing the value of a distributed generation solar (DG solar) market. Over 100,000 Americans are currently employed in the solar industry and the majority of those jobs are in deployment and installation. By putting in place a DG solar goal, Illinois will foster an in-state solar industry, which can get to work meeting the pent up demand for on-site solar from Illinois residents, business owners, school and public agencies.

SEIA and Vote Solar encourage the IPA and all DG solar stakeholders to move through this workshop process with an important over-arching goal. A **transparent market roadmap** should be the end product of this process that includes a multi-year streamlined procurement process; creating a solid framework for the solar market, allowing sellers and consumers to effectively and efficiently participate. In order for solar companies to invest in Illinois, to invest in Illinois, there must be a transparent market roadmap established through this workshop process.

One of the key components of the market roadmap is the available budget for each year of the DG carve-out, beginning in 2012. We understand that the budget for the carve-out will depend on how much was allocated to prior procurements of non-DG solar RECs for delivery beginning 2013 and beyond. We encourage the IPA to determine the amount of those allocations. Another critical area is to create transparency into the net remaining funds available for implementing the DG solar carve-out and the size of the procurement required (in MW) to meet the carve-out.

¹ On January 1, 2012, the Solar Alliance merged with the Solar Energy Industries Association. Established in 1974, the Solar Energy Industries Association is the national trade association of the U.S. solar energy industry. Through advocacy and education, SEIA is working to build a strong solar industry to power America. As the voice of the industry, SEIA works with its 1,100 member companies to make solar a mainstream and significant energy source by expanding markets, removing market barriers strengthening the industry and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy. www.seia.org

SEIA and Vote Solar will offer additional comments on program design and specifications following the first workshop. In the meantime, we encourage the IPA to review comments offered in the 2011 process by the Solar Alliance. See Solar Alliance comments of September 15, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

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